



PRESS NOTICE

WILLIAM N. NETTLES UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*1441 Main Street, Suite 500 * Columbia, SC 29201 * (803) 929-3000**

November 10, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT PERSON: Sean Kittrell (843) 266-1668

Fleeing Felon in Interstate High Speed Chase Gets Maximum Federal Sentence

Columbia, South Carolina ---- United States Attorney William N. Nettles stated today that yesterday Senior United States District Judge C. Weston Houck sentenced Dwight Fleming, age 31, of North Charleston, South Carolina, to the maximum possible sentence of 10 years in federal prison, without parole, followed by 3 years of supervised release. Fleming pled guilty earlier this year of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

The sentencing was based on an incident that backed up traffic for miles on Interstate 26 and which began around 1:30 p.m. on the afternoon of January 19, 2011. Deputy Lt Whited with Charleston County Sheriff's Office was in the westbound lane when he saw a beige Lincoln Town Car traveling at least fifteen miles per hour over the speed limit. After the deputy turned on his blue lights in order to make a traffic stop for speeding and improper lane change violations, the Lincoln quickly accelerated and led the police on a high speed

chase. The Lincoln led police onto Rivers Avenue and then began traveling at speeds over 100 mph before ending up at Eagle Drive and Rivers Avenue, where it stopped. The front passenger jumped out and the Lincoln sped away back to Interstate 26. It traveled towards the city of Charleston, again speeding over 100 mph. Ultimately, Fleming lost control and the Lincoln hit the center wall, coming to a stop. Fleming got out of the wrecked car and fled on foot crossing westbound traffic before jumping over a retaining wall. He was quickly arrested and the Lincoln was searched. The police found a Glock model 23, .40 caliber firearm with an obliterated serial number on the passenger floorboard. It was loaded with fourteen rounds of .40 caliber ammunition. Fleming, after being advised of Miranda rights, made a written statement and said that he was attempting to elude law enforcement; and admitted that the Glock pistol found in the suspect vehicle belonged to him.

Mr. Nettles advised that the case was investigated by the North Charleston Police Department, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, the Charleston Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Mr. Nettles commended the deputies and officers and the Assistant U.S. Attorney that worked the case, stating, "convicted felons are dangerous when they are armed. This case is another great example of the law enforcement agencies in our community working together to make our communities safer." Assistant United States Attorney Sean Kittrell of the Charleston office prosecuted the case.

#####